

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL NAHA NAHA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO CINCPAC

COGARD

TREASURY

GOVGUAM

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 18 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. CHINA

PRC SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHES 5TH EARTH SATELLITE, 3RD IN
PAST 6 MOS (WP; CSM; REUTER, NYT, ISAACS, SUN).
OBSERVERS BELIEVE COULD BE PREPARATORY STEP TOWARD
FIRST MANNED SPACE FLIGHT (CSM; REUTER, NYT). ANNOUNCEMENT
DID NOT DISCLOSE ORBITAL COURSE, HEIGHT; PURPOSE GIVEN
IS "PREPAREDNESS AGAINST WAR." WEIGHT NOT DISCLOSED,
PROBABLY TO HIDE ROCKET CAPACITY. PRC BELIEVED DEVELOPING
ICBM CAPABLE DELIVERING NUCLEAR WARHEAD BUT HAS NOT
TESTED ONE OVER FULL 6000 MILE RANGE (REUTER, NYT).
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ISAACS (SUN) NOTES LAUNCHING FOLLOWED SUCCESSFUL SATELLITE
RECOVERY DURING PRES' VISIT. SEES ACCELERATED SPACE
PROGRAM AS INDICATION DEFENSE SPENDING WILL BEGIN RISE
AGAIN. REVIEWS MIL TECHNOLOGY INCLUDING ROCKETS, NUKES;

QUOTES EXPERTS THAT WOULD TAKE DECADE FOR PRC TO RIVAL
US, USSR AS MIL POWER.

DELEGATION 12 HR MEMBERS WILL LEAVE DEC 27 FOR 2-WK
OFFICIAL VISIT TO PRC (CSM).

PEKING TRADE DEFICIT FALLS SHARPLY FROM 1.1 BILLION
DOLS OF 1974 TO ABOUT 650 MILLION THIS YEAR. NARROWING
GAAP APPEARS DUE DECLINE TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT PURCHASES.
OVERALL TRADE ESTIMATED AT 13.7 BILLION, SAME AS LAST
YR'S; PRC APPEARS EXPORT ABOUT 15 PCT OF ESTIMATED 80
MILLION TON OIL PRODUCTION ; MAKES INCREASED EFFORTS
SELL OVERSEAS WITH SPECIALTY "MINI-FAIRS." PEKING
CONTINUES EFFORTS CRACK US MARKET, WITH SOME SIGNS
SUCCESS (STRAUSS, JOC).

SUN'S SEIDEN AT PEKING NOTES EMPHASIS ON SLOGAN,
"LEARN FROM TACHAI," WHICH IS IN EFFECT EXHORTATION
TO INCREASE PRODUCTION BY WORKING TOGETHER, RELYING
ON SELVES RATHER THAN GOVT. NOTES BATTLE IS ON
IN RURAL AREAS AROUND CAPITAL, CANTON, WITH WORK
BRIGADES EVERYWHERE BUILDING BRIDGES, DIVERTING STREAMS,
LEVELING HILLS, MOSTLY BY HAND. DESCRIBES MEDIA EFFORT
PROMOTE TACHI SPIRIT; NOTES SIMILAR MOVEMENT TO
"LEARN FROM TACHAI IN INDUSTRY."

CSM'S PRESS QUOTES 2 AMCITS WHO RECENTLY REVISITED PRC
THAT FEWER MAO BUTTONS, RED BOOKS OF QUOTATIONS SEEN;
MORE VEHICLES, BICYCLES, EVIDENT; FACTORY MACHINERY
INCREASED, BETTER; GRAIN PRODUCTION UP. ALSO QUOTES
BUSH THAT ALTHOUGH CHINA'S PROGRESS EVEN HOLDS LESSONS
FOR US, PEOPLE HAVE PAID HEAVY PRICE IN FORM TOTAL
REGIMENTATION.

2. INDOCHINA

LAOS SAYS WANTS FRIENDSHIP OF US, NON-COMMUNIST SEA
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NATIONS. ADDS US STILL HAS OBLIGATION PROVIDE AIDS
TO HEAL WAR WOUNDS (AP, LAT 12/17).

FIVE OF 8 SK DIPLOMATS STRANDED IN SVN BY US EVACUATION
REPORTEDLY JAILED BY NEW COMMUNIST GOVT (WP). PRG
SAYS RECOGNIZES RIGHT TO RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, WITH RECENT
EVENTS BRINGING FAVORABLE CONDITIONS FOR RELIGIONS PLAY
PART IN NATL DEVELOPMENT (REUTER, LAT 12/17).

3. AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND

NEW CONSERVATIVE GOVT REPORTED PREPARING TELL USSR THAT
GOA DOES NOT RECOGNIZE INCORPORATION BALTIC STATES INTO

SOVIET UNION, IN REVERSAL POLICY OF LABOR GOVT. FRASER ALSO CALLS MEETING OF INDUSTRY, LABOR, GOVT REPS FOR MID-JAN; STATES MAY CANCEL PLANS DISBAND PRICE-CONTROL TRIBUNAL (ANDELMAN, NYT).

US CODEL WILL VISIT AUSTRALIA, NZ NEXT MONTH TO DISCUSS POL TRENDS IN S PAC, ASIA. LEADERS WILL BE SENS HOLLINGS,

PEARSON (REUTER, LAT 12/17).

4. INDONESIA

MOLUCCAN MEDIATOR DID NOT SHOW UP FOR MEETING WITH GUNMEN HOLDING HOSTAGES IN INDO CONSULATE AMSTERDAM (AP, NYT).

WP'S SAAR ON JAVA DISCUSSES INDO'S POPULATION PROBLEM, CALLS IT "DISASTROUS BIRTH EXPLOSION." DESCRIBES LIFE OF POOR FAMILY, PROBLEMS OF OVERPOPULATION. SAYS TRADITIONAL SHARING OF POVERTY BREAKING DOWN, WITH VILLAGERS SIMPLY EXPELLING SURPLUS NUMBERS BECAUSE UNABLE SUPPORT THEM. NOTES INCREASE IS 2.2-2.5 PCT ANNUALLY. TELLS OF FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM THAT COLLIDES WITH TRADITION OF LARGE FAMILIES TO PROVIDE HELP IN FUTURE, CARE IN OLD AGE.

5. KOREA

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SPOKESMAN CONFIRMS LOCKHEED SOLD SOME SURPLUS ROCKET-ENGINE MANUFACTURING EQUIPMENT TO SK, THROUGH AN INTERMEDIARY, FOR ABOUT TWO MILLION DOLS. DECLINED COMMENT WHETHER FIRM SOLD AT LOSS (WSJ, BURBANK).

CHITRIB CARRIES FIFTH AND LAST PART OF NYDN SERIES BY COTTER ON UNIFICATION CHURCH. CITES PROBLEMS, PARENTAL PRESSURES, LAWSUITS ON TAX-FREE STATUS THAT PERIL REV MOON'S CRUSADE.

NYT'S FARSWORTH FINDS GLOOM AT CIEC IN PARIS WHETHER UNDERDEVELOPED NATIONS WITHOUT OIL CAN PAY DEBTS NEXT YEAR. CITES US TREASURY SOURCE THAT BRAZIL, MEXICO, SK TOGETHER ACCOUNTED FOR ONE-THIRD OF 38 BILLION DOL DEFICIT IN INTL ACCOUNTS, BY SUCH COUNTRIES THIS YEAR, BUT OVERALL GAP EXPECTED NARROW NEXT YR TO 35 BILLION WITH ANTICIPATED ECON RECOVERY IN WEST, INCREASED DEMAND FOR GOODS.

6. JAPAN

CULLISON (JOC) CITES MITI SURVEY RELEASED WED THAT

SHOWS SALES, PROFITS DOWN; BANKRUPTCIES SPREADING TO LARGER FIRMS, MFG INDUSTRY; AND 54 PCT OF STUDENTS GRADUATING COLLEGE MAR 31 WILL NOT HAVE JOBS. ONLY BRIGHT SPOTS IN CONSUMER DURABLE INDUSTRY: APPLIANCES AUTOS. ALSO CITES MOL HASEGAWA ESTIMATE WED THAT UNEMPLOYMENT WILL TOP 1.2 MILLION IN JAN, DUE SEASONAL SLACK.

DIET WEDNESDAY COMPLETED APPROVAL OF CRUDE OIL RESERVE LAW, REQUIRING OIL INDUSTRY INCREASE RESERVES TO 90 DAYS, WITHIN FIVE YEARS. GOJ EARLIER EARMARKED 295 MILLION DOLS IN CURRENT BUDGET HELP FINANCE BUILDUP OF OIL RESERVES (UPI, JOC).

OFFICIALS SAY MOF PLANS GRANT FORMAL APPROVAL IN JAN TO PERMIT OCCIDENTAL SELL LIFE INSURANCE IN JAPAN. SPOKESMAN IN SFO SAID PARENT FIRM, TRANSAMERICA CORP, WISHES STUDY TERMS OF APPROVAL BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER ACTUALLY SELL INSURANCE IN JAPAN (WSJ).
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LINCOLN JOHNSON (SUN) CALLS EXHIBIT "JAPONISME: JAPANESE INFLUENCE ON FRENCH ART 1854 - 1910" AT WALTER ART GALLERY BALTIMORE "A BANQUET FOR SENSES, BOTH SUMPTUOUS AND SUBTLE."

CSM'S DOLE IN TOKYO FINDS JAPAN LAND OF NO-NONSENSE DRIVING, WITH CLEANEST, QUIETEST CARS IN WORLD. IN SEPARATE PIECE TELLS HOW BULLET TRAIN MAKES 735-MILE TOKYO-FUKUOKA RUN IN LESS THAN SEVEN HOURS, DESCRIBES ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS FACING NATL RR SYSTEM.

7. HONG KONG

LAT'S ELEGANT (12/17) NOTES PROGRESS OVERTAKING OPIUM, RICKSHAWS. GIVES HISTORY OF BOTH, NOTES PLAYED IMPORTANT ROLES IN CHINA UNTIL RELATIVELY RECENTLY. POINTS OUT MODERN DRUG USERS PREFER HEROIN.

8. AUSTRALIA

WSTAR (12/17) STATES RETURN OF L-NC COALITION TO POWER AFTER THREE YEARS OF CONTROVERSIAL DALLIANCE WITH ALP SHOULD PRODUCE PERIOD OF STABILITY IN RECENTLY TURBULENT POLITICS OF AUSTRALIA, AND BETTER CHANCE FOR RECOVERY FROM GNAWING ECON PROBLEMS. BELIEVES FRASER GOVT, WITHOUT BACKTRACKING ON AUSSIE NATIONALISM, CAN BE EXPECTED TO RE-EMPHASIZE TRADITIONAL CLOSENESS WITH US, UK.

WSJ NOTES REJOICING BY FREE MARKETERS EVERYWHERE AT

FALL OF SOCIALIST GOVTS IN PAST THREE WEEKS IN AUSTRALIA, NZ, AND CANADA'S BC. BUT REMAINS BE SEEN WHETHER HEIRS TO POWER CAN UNDO ECONOMIC DAMAGE THAT PROMPTED VOTERS TO BOUNCE SOCIALISTS. FORESEES MAJOR TASK FOR FRASER,

MULDOON, BENNETT TO DEMONSTRATE CONSERVATIVES CAN CONTROL, OR REVERSE PROCESSES SET IN MOTION BY PREDECESSORS. OPINES MAY SUCCEED IN FORMIDABLE TASK, GIVEN INDIVIDUALISTIC SPIRIT IN CONSTITUENCIES.
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9. PACIFIC DOCTRINE

LOUISVILLE COURIER JOURNAL (12/10) FINDS NEW DOCTRINE DISTURBING; SEES PRES AS SANTA CLAUS GIVING OUT PROMISES FINANCIAL AID, US COMMITMENTS TO OTHER NATIONS' SECURITY, INDEPENDENCE. BELIEVES CONGRESS WILL LOOK CLOSELY AT COMMITMENTS, MAY NOT SUPPORT THEM. NOTES DOCTRINE HAS SOME PRESENTLY RECOGNIZED PILLARS OF US FOREIGN POLICY, BUT FINDS DISTURBING NEW EMPHASIS ON PRESERVING INDEPENDENCE NON-COMMUNIST NATIONS, AMONG THEM THAILAND, MALAYSIA, AS WELL AS INDONESIA, PHILS. RECALLS SIMILAR PROMISES DECADE AGO THAT ENDED IN VN JUNGLES.

LCJ BELIEVES US RELS WITH CHINA APPEAR NO DIFFERENT AS RESULT TRIP, SO WONDERS WHAT PURPOSE WAS. CONSIDERS MAY HAVE BEEN GOODWILL VISIT TO IMPRESS VOTERS. SAYS AS SIDE EFFECT, US ASIAN POLICY SEEMS HEADED TOWARD PROMISES THAT CAN'T BE DELIVERED, MORE CLASHES BETWEEN CONGRESS, PRES, UNLESS PAC DOCTRINE JUST "SEASONAL GREETINGS."

10. INDOCHINA

DETROIT NEWS (12/8, NOTES AS EXPECTED, COMMUNISTS TOOK CONTROL LAOS, MONARCHY ABOLISHED. BELIEVES CONTINUING US PRESENCE AT VIENTIANE WILL BE OF LITTLE VALUE TO US OR LAOS, BUT MAY SERVE SMALL USEFULNESS AS WINDOW LOOKING INTO COMMUNIST SEA.

ANTHONY LEWIS (NYT) NOTES VN IN "DIM PAST" IN MOST PEOPLE'S MINDS. BELIEVES XMAS BOMBING OF 3 YRS AGO SHOULD BE REMEMBERED SINCE RAISED QUESTIONS OF FACT, LAW, MORALS THAT STILL UNAANSWERED. SAYS NO CONSIDERED OFFICIAL EXPLANATION OF EVENT YET; POINTS OUT SOME LEGAL OPINION THAT CONSTITUTED WAR CRIME; RECALLS THAT ONLY FEW MEN MADE BOMBING DECISION IN SECRET, AND "AUTOCRATIC STYLE" REMAINS, AS IN RECENT ANGOLA AFFAIR. CRITICIZES SECSTATE FOR VALUING AUTHORITY, ORDER, NOT HUMANITY, MORALS. ON INDOCHINA CONCLUDES AMERICANS
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CARED LESS ABOUT BLAME FOR DEFEAT THAN ABOUT ENDING BLOODSHED. OPINES CONFIDENCE IN GOVT LOW, IN PART BECAUSE SOME OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR PAST ABUSES REMAIN IN POWER AND NEVER APOLOGIZE, NEVER EXPLAIN.

CONCLUDES PUBLIC HAS RIGHT BE CYNICAL WHEN MAN WHOSE POLICY DESTROYED CAMBODIA TALKS ABOUT US IDEALS; ASKS WHY SHOULD AMERICANS BELIEVE GOVT WHEN IT DOES NOT EVEN TRY JUSTIFY ACT AS INFAMOUS AS XMAS BOMBING?

11. JAPAN

YATES (CHITRIB) IN TOKYO RECALLS RITUAL SUICIDE BY MISHIMA FIVE YEARS AGO, DEPLORING JAPAN'S "HYPOCRITICAL CONDITION" AND "SPIRITUAL LETHARGY". EVER SINCE, SOME 150,000 RIGHTISTS, NEVER SATISFIED WITH EXPLANATION HE MUST HAVE BEEN INSANE, GATHER ANNUALLY TO PAY HOMAGE TO POSTHUMOUS SYMBOL OF THEIR CAUSE. RIGHTISTS DO NOT VIEW US AS ENEMY BUT CONSIDER MST AS STUMBLING BLOCK TO INDEPENDENT JAPANESE POLICIES, WHICH IS ONLY POINT ON WHICH THEY MIGHT AGREE WITH LEFTISTS.

12. CHINA

NYT STATES TRIANGULAR US-PRC-USSR RELATIONSHIP ENTERING NEW PHASE WITH SALE OF RR JET ENGINES, TECHNOLOGY TO PEKING. SAYS UK MADE DECISION AFTER "THOROUGH CONSULTATION" WITH WASHINGTON, THAT PROVIDED "SUBSTANTIAL ASSURANCE" OF COCOM AGREEMENT. AGREES CHIEF FACTOR IN CHINA'S SEARCH FOR BETTER RELATIONS WITH US, WEUR, JAPAN UNDOUBTEDLY WAS NEED FOR POLITICAL SUPPORT TO COUNTERBALANCE SOV THREAT, BUT NOW CLEAR THAT SECOND REASON FOR RAPPROCHMENT WITH WEST WAS CHINA'S DESIRE TO GAIN ACCESS TO MODERN MILITARY EQUIPMENT. CONCLUDES THIS FACTOR MAY ACTUALLY PROMOTE STABILITY IN DELICATE TRIANGULAR BALANCE.

IRA EAKER (AF TIMES 12/24) ASKS WHY CHINESE EXTENDED INVITATION FOR FORD VISIT AT THIS TIME. REPLIES PEKING POLICY IS PLAY OFF MOSCOW AGAINST WASHINGTON, BECAUSE UNCLASSIFIED

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CHINA IN LESS DANGER FROM EITHER AS LONG AS BOTH MAINTAIN PARITY. BUT CHINESE NOW CONCERNED ABOUT LOSS OF MILITARY EQUILIBRIUM, CONTINUED UNILATERAL US DISARMAMENT. THEREFORE, TOOK THIS A OPPORTUNITY WARN US LEADERSHIP OF GREAT DANGER OF ALLOWING "EUPHORIA OF DETENTE" TO FURTHER DISARM US.

SUN'S WU IN HK FINDS PRESTIGIOUS OBITS FOR KANG SHEN MARKED
BY SALIENT THEME OF ANTI-REVISIONISM, REFLECTING CONTINU-
ING CONCERN BY CHINESE LEADERS OVER HOW FORESTALL
CHINA FROM BACKSLIDING INTO CAPITALISM,OR SOVIET
"REVISIONIST" COMMUNISM. KISSINGER

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